ARTICLE APPEARED ON PAGE 9A

USA TCDAY 25 October 1982

Soviet spy scandal rocks Britain

Special for USA TODAY

LONDON — The case of a spy-translator at the West's most important listening post threatens to explode into one of Britain's worst post-war espionage scandals.

Opposition Laborite Ted Leadbitter Sunday called on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to report to the House of Commons on the case of Geoffrey Arthur Prime, a Russian linguist who worked at

the ultra-secret Cheltham communications center.

Prime, 44, was charged in July with giving the KGB top-secret information from Britain's chief eavesdropping center and the hub of U.S. British intelligence links.

The Cheltham center provides raw intelligence data by processing Soviet communications collected by spies, surveillance ships and satellites. Analysts said Prime's information over a nine-year period could

have tipped the Kremlin on what codes to change and what fake data to plant in order to manipulate British — and possibly American — policy.

Vladimir Kuzichkin was at a Sussex "safe house" Sunday telling British agents about the KGB's internal affairs and its campaign to sow subversion in Iran. Agents described Kuzichkin, 35, as a "big fish" whose information could revise Western perceptions of the entire Soviet intelligence network.